

# COUNTY OF YORK

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** June 5, 2000 (BOS Mtg. 6/20/00)

**TO:** York County Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Daniel M. Stuck, County Administrator

**SUBJECT:** SHOCAP Designation

### **Background**

The justice system has numerous legal provisions designed to safeguard the privacy and confidentiality of juveniles in the court system. Although well intentioned, this has a “fragmenting” effect by prohibiting the sharing of information among various state and local agencies. Such barriers reduce the effectiveness of any service plan for juveniles and can even increase risks when matters of public safety are involved.

Recognizing the inherent difficulties of such total restrictions, the General Assembly established a program called SHOCAP – Serious Habitual Offenders Comprehensive Action Program. Authorized by Section 16.1-330.1 of the Code of Virginia as amended, SHOCAP is a comprehensive and cooperative information sharing and case management program. It allows agencies that serve juveniles to share information about serious or habitual offenders and promotes a more coordinated service delivery system.

A locality can secure a SHOCAP designation upon request of the governing body. This process also includes establishing a SHOCAP Committee comprised of representatives from agencies involved with juveniles. The County’s Director of Community Services set-up a Juvenile Offender Coordinating Council in 1998. In addition to Community Services, this Council has representation from the Schools, Sheriff’s Office, Court Services, the Merrimac Juvenile Detention Center and the Department of Financial and Management Services. An organizational chart is enclosed. The Council meets regularly on matters of policy and demographics. If the Board chooses to proceed, the Council can easily be expanded to incorporate various other appropriate agencies. A second organizational chart reflects the proposed SHOCAP Council.

Securing a SHOCAP designation has no fiscal impact for the County and does not have complex state reporting or administrative requirements. The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) oversees the program in the Commonwealth and provides guidance to localities as needed and requested.

It should be noted that the Community Services Department has been working toward an integrated data collection system using the County’s Geographic Information Systems (GIS) capacity as a tool in a strategic planning process. This is a long-term project with a

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goal of better program and service design and resource allocation. There are technological and confidentiality barriers to overcome in this project. Consequently, a SHOCAP designation for York would not only benefit juvenile offender programs, but it would also be an important part of the larger project.

### **Recommendation**

A SHOCAP designation for York has numerous potential benefits. The Juvenile Offender Coordinating Council is in place, ready for expansion and fully supports this initiative. There is no fiscal impact nor do we anticipate significant administrative burdens. At any time that it appears this is no longer useful to the County, SHOCAP can be placed on an inactive status. Given these considerations, I recommend adoption of Resolution R00-103, asking that the Commonwealth designate York County as a SHOCAP locality.

DMS/Smith/4111

Attachments:

- **Exhibit 1:** Organizational Chart – Existing Juvenile Offender Coordinating Council
- **Exhibit 2:** Organizational Chart – Proposed SHOCAP Council
- Proposed Resolution R00-103